

This is William L. D'Agostino, WB1DMK, and I am a 26+ year veteran of the Amateur Radio Service. I am opposed to all of the petitions and comments concerning the elimination of the 5 word per minute Morse Code Requirement needed to operate an Amateur Radio Station in the short wave bands (i.e., less than 30 MHz). See Petitions RM-10781 through RM-10787.

Amateur Radio is more than just a hobby, it is also an emergency communications service. There have been countless occurrences where voice communications modes such as single side band (SSB) were unable to effectively relay information on the short wave bands whereas Morse Code (CW) could. Morse Code needs to be a requirement for Amateur Radio as long as Amateur Radio is expected to relay emergency communications when all other means are inoperative.

However, I wish to offer a compromise. Instead of dropping the Morse Code Requirement, I suggest that the Commission only changes the rules for the 10-Meter Band (i.e., 28-29 MHz). For the 10-Meter Band only, I suggest that the Commission should allow operators who have not passed the minimum 5 per minute Morse Code requirement the ability to use the 10-Meter band. This compromise will allow No-Code Technician Class operators a taste of short wave communications and give them an incentive to upgrade to a higher Amateur Radio Class.

In conclusion, I believe that the Commission should KEEP the Morse Code Requirement for short wave communications, except that the Commission should make a compromise which will allow No-Code license operation in the 10-Meter Amateur Radio Band. Restated, change the Code Requirement from all frequencies below 30 MHz to all frequencies below 28.1 MHz.

As a final comment, please do NOT change the CW (Code) Sub Bands below 30 MHz.

Sincerely,
William L. D'Agostino
WB1DMK
Advanced Class Operator